

mitigation. Background information on these themes included the sources of their information, the assumptions they made in combining it, the methods they used and the cautions to consider. The result is a series of map grids. Each unit of a grid (typically 90 meter squares, derived from satellite imagery) is represented by a color that paints a picture related to a particular topic (also referred to as “theme”).

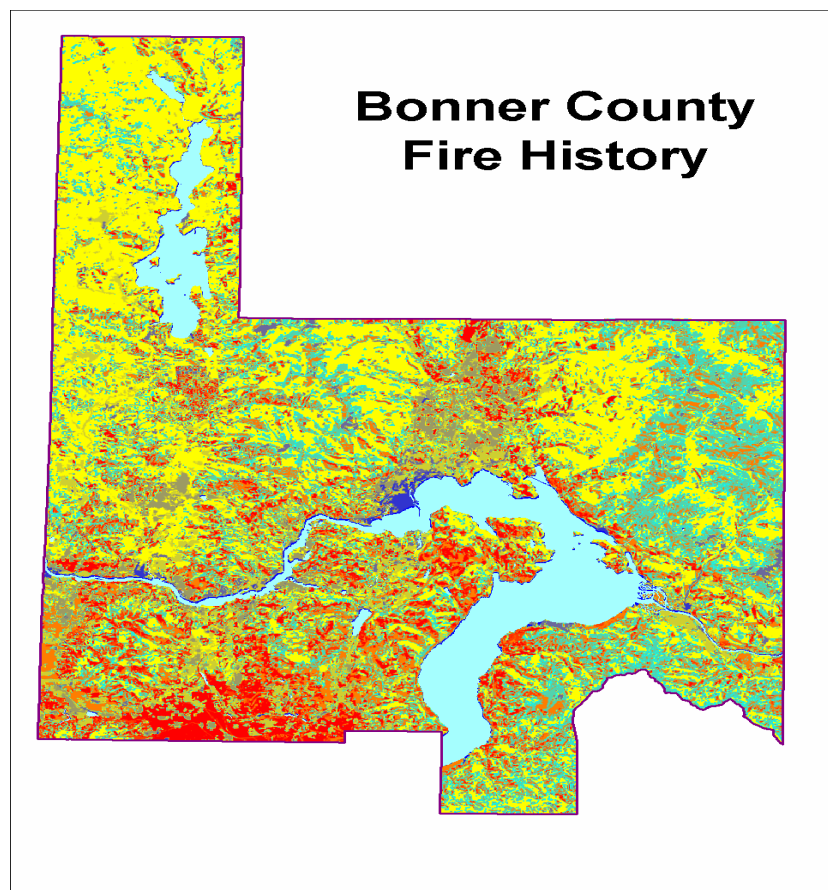
Snapshots of each theme are included in this text. It is important to remember that this information covered a much larger area than Bonner County, and has not been updated with information for fires since 2001. The goal of this report is to understand this data and pose informed questions about the application of this information to Bonner County.

### **Sixty-One Year Fire History**

The Cohesive Strategy Team assembled information from each of the forests in the region for each decade since 1940. They drew outlines of each fire in that period, identified the related habitat, and the frequency of those fires.

**MAP 1**

The resulting map (Map 1) shows frequent fires, particularly in the Spirit Lake, area but in many other areas as well. Only rocky mountaintops seem exempt. This theme will be a prime component of many subsequent themes. A major implication will be that fire is a natural part of most local ecologies. This map shows us what we can expect to occur naturally. Red areas on the map depicted highest frequency of fires.



### **Natural Vegetation**

General patterns of Potential Natural Vegetation (PNV) correspond to soil, weather, elevation, exposure to sun, wind, rain and many other factors. The information gathered over the years by foresters, biologists, climatologists and cartographers was